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If it be true that secret diplomacy, *not only in Germany and Austria-Hungary*, but also among the Allies was one of the causes but for which the war might have been prevented, then nothing else relating to the subject is relatively of much importance.

Of Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Reinsch writes: "Thus a minister, to whom national intrigue and duplicity were essentially foreign, who was trusted by his country and who wanted peace, was brought by the methods of secret diplomacy into a position where he had actually incurred the moral obligation to assist another country without having the power for peace which the ability to avow that relationship openly, to take the responsibility, and to confront Germany therewith would have given him."

If this be true, then England and France must share with Germany, in some degree, responsibility for the war!

Here is the point that needs the fullest discussion—a point on which previous diplomatic history throws comparatively little light. Profitably pursued, it would seem to lead directly into the broader question of the present conception of nationality. If secret diplomacy is a survival of the absolutist state, it is sustained to-day by a selfish and jealous nationalism, and it is with causes rather than symptoms that we should chiefly concern ourselves.

There would seem to be, therefore, an unconscious disproportion in Mr. Reinsch's book; yet the work contains much information and much clear statement. To the objection that delicate negotiations may be hampered by publicity, the author answers that we need more of Lincoln's faith in the plain people; and he encourages the belief that the discrediting of secret diplomacy and its gradual abandonment may be more effective in removing the causes of both war and international intrigue than persons rendered cynical by the results of the peace may be inclined to think. At a certain stage in civilization publicity becomes at once possible, necessary, and effective in order to secure the ends of society.

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WHAT NEXT IN EUROPE? By Frank A. Vanderlip. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company.

It is apparently hard for Americans to realize the extent of the calamity that has overtaken Europe as the result of the war and as a result of the peace. This difficulty of comprehension is in part due to that general "economic illiteracy" (an excellent phrase which Mr. Vanderlip has contributed to the current discussion) which we share with other peoples, and in part to the difficulty we experience in thinking internationally: the misfortunes of others may easily be minimized. However obvious it may be that immense destruction of life and property means dead loss to the world, and that economic anarchy must result from the arbitrary process of carving out political states without regard for economic boundaries, few of us realize that European civilization is threatened with destruction.

It is strange that Mr. Vanderlip should find it necessary, even in a book intended for popular consumption, to lay principal stress upon the evils of inflated currency, and that he should discover the remedy in a principle so broad as that of international good-will and coöperation. Yet so it is. And because it is the only international agency that seems capable of bringing some degree of international coöperation, the League of Nations, Mr. Vanderlip believes, is one of the few curative forces now in operation.

It is largely, however, because Mr. Vanderlip speaks with authority; it is because, having thoroughly studied the condition of Europe and having penetrated the complexities of facts and figures down to the simple truth, he can sweep away illusions with a decisive gesture, that his book is of great value.

In brief, every nation in Europe faces a serious economic crisis. England, whose prestige is greatest, is not exempt. Because of the stagnancy of foreign trade, her whole economic system is menaced. "I am aware that this sober view of the English situation," writes Mr. Vanderlip, "is shared by few Americans. I found that it came as a surprise to the people of the Continent." If the terrible embargoes on trade are not removed and England's customers are not rehabilitated the British Isles may experience tragedy. France, despite the unique character of her investing public, and her consequent ability to float loans that would be impossible elsewhere, is on the verge. The economic condition of most other European countries, and especially of the so-called succession states of Central Europe, is pitiful. Continuous inflation of currency appears to afford the only escape from immediate anarchy, and the remedy is as bad as the disease. Responsible and far-seeing statesmen are caught in a vicious circle and cannot escape. Italy, it may be surprising to learn, has on the whole acted with most prudence, and has fared best; and it is in Italy that Mr. Vanderlip finds greatest signs of the working of those spiritual forces which may lead to regeneration.

Perhaps the most noteworthy fact about Mr. Vanderlip's book is, after all, this: that it sees salvation for the world in a combination of economic common sense and spirituality! The one is impotent without the other. This point of view has seldom, if ever, been so effectively expressed. Of course, a plan is necessary, and the carefully worked out scheme for the establishment of a Gold Reserve Bank of the United States of Europe which Mr. Vanderlip proposes seems the best remedy yet suggested for the worst evil that afflicts Europe, and the most effective and feasible form of American participation in European problems. Another vital suggestion is that the debts of European countries to the United States be used to establish credits in those countries for the purpose of financing projects of rehabilitation. Ultimately the United States would be repaid, much more surely than it could be under any other plan. It is not nature that is to blame for present conditions; it is human nature. "The people of Europe could be bountifully fed, well clothed, and could live on a high plane of material comfort, if there could be reasonable co-operation between racial and political groups."